

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:JSROY/RAHOLMES:CED

APPROVED BY EA/PRCM:OVARMSSTRONG

EA - MR. GLEYSTEN (SUBS.)

A - MR. HOWE (SUBS.)

H - MR. RICHARDSON (INFO.)

----- 121929

O 072324Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, CH, US

SUBJECT: CODEL GIFTS

1. AS USLO IS AWARE, PRACTICE OF SOME EARLIER CODELS OF DISTRIBUTING GIFTS WIDELY DURING VISITS TO THE PRC HAS ON OCCASION PROVED EMBARRASSING TO HOSTS AND HAS CREATED VARIETY OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEADACHES. WITH ANDERSON DELEGATION IN THE OFFING, WE WOULD LIKE TO TRY TO CURB THIS PRACTICE THROUGH REACHING AN INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MFA PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT ON HANDLING OF GIFTS DURING CONGRESSIONAL VISITS.

2. OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING IS THAT OPTIMAL PRACTICE WOULD BE FOR EACH DELEGATION TO GIVE ONLY ONE MAJOR GIFT DURING VISIT, PREFERABLY TO THE HOST ORGANIZATION. SMALL MEMENTOS (SUCH AS SENATE ASHTRAYS) MIGHT STILL BE GIVEN TO INTERPRETERS AND PRC ESCORTS WHO ACCOMPANY DELEGATION, BUT GIFTS WOULD NOT BE GIVEN TO RANKING PRC OFFICIALS IN PEKING

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OR TO "RESPONSIBLE PERSONS" OF ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTER-

PRIZES ON DELEGATION'S SCHEDULE. WE ARE NOT SO CONCERNED WITH EFFORTS BY SOME MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS TO DISTRIBUTE MEMENTO-TYPE ITEMS, INCLUDING TO ESCORTS.

3. IF USLO AGREES WITH APPROACH OUTLINED ABOVE, PLEASE RAISE THE QUESTION ASAP WITH THE PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT OF MFA, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UPCOMING ANDERSON VISIT, AND MAKE THE FOLLOWINGPOINTS:

A) PREVIOUS PRACTICE HAS BEEN FOR CODELS TO GIVE GIFTS TO THE PRINCIPAL LEADERS WHO MEET WITH THE DELEGATION BOTH IN PEKING AND ELSEWHERE. AT TIMES, WE HAVE SENSED SOME EMBARRASSMENT AT THIS PRACTICE ON THE PART OF THE RECIPIENTS.

B) SUCH GROUPS ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE HOSPITALITY EXTENDED THEM, BUT TO AVOID ANY AWKWARDNESS IN THE FUTURE, WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT CONGRESSIONAL GROUPS HENCEFORTH LIMIT THEMSELVES TO ONE OFFICIAL GIFT TO BE PRESENTED TO THE HOST ORGANIZATION. IF THE CHINESE SIDE CONSIDERS THIS APPROPRIATE, WE WILL RECOMMEND THIS TO THE UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION HEADED BY REPRESENTATIVE ANDERSON.

C) DELEGATION MEMBERS MAY OF COURSE STILL WISH TO GIVE SMALL MEMENTOS TO PERSONS WHO ESCORT THEM DURING THE VISIT.

D) WE ARE RAISING THIS MATTER SO AS TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING AND WOULD WELCOME CHINESE VIEWS.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT CHINESE MAY SIMPLY RESPOND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THEM TO COMMENT ON GIFTS TO BE GIVEN BY US SIDE. WE LEAVE IT TO YOU AS TO HOW BEST TO ELICIT CHINESE RESPONSE.

5. FYI: WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE AT THIS TIME THAT ABOVE APPROACH TO GIFT-GIVING, IF ADOPTED, WOULD NECESSARILY ESTABLISH PRECEDENT FOR VISITS BY SECRETARY OR PRESIDENT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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END FYI.
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